

**From the Office of the President
Dr Giles Maskell MA FRCP FRCR**

By email to: UKCMOGuidelinesReview@dh.gsi.gov.uk
Alcohol Policy Team
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Department of Health
Wellington House
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28 January 2016

Dear Sir or Madam

Health risks from alcohol: new guidelines

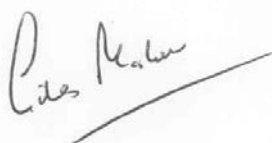
The Royal College of Radiologists has discussed the proposed new guidelines and the questions being asked in the consultation document issued by the Department In January 2016.

Our interest relates to the fact that alcohol is a well-recognised and increasingly important cause of cancer as well as other serious diseases. We have no comments to make on the guidelines as we are satisfied that they are based on the best current evidence and appear to be clear.

However, we are concerned that other decisions taken by the Government give out conflicting messages notably around the public health agenda. The budgetary reductions imposed on Public Health England and the ability of local authorities to give out effective messaging will obviously reduce the knowledge and awareness of sectors of the population who most need to review their drinking habits and understand the risks of exceeding the drinking limits in the new guidelines.

We therefore urge the Departmental of Health to reconsider those decisions as it has long been demonstrated that changing behaviours upstream can reduce costs and negative impact downstream on the overall healthcare system.

Yours faithfully



Dr Giles Maskell
President
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